To W. L. Garrison.

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East-Walpole, Jan 21/57

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My dear Sir,

I doubt if you quite do Mr Wallcott justice in his notice of his Election Sermon. I did not hear it, tho' it is alleged to have been preached before his Ex. his honor & the Hon. Council; but I don't want to believe that a man like Mr Wallcott who, if there is any good in that character of orthodoxy, represents it, endorses the "American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions." I think he must have referred, "in lauding the American Foreign Missionary Society," to the "American Missionary Association" — an Association, as you are probably abroad. sustained by those who have left the "A. B. C. F. M." on account of its pro-slavery character & which tries to spread an anti-slavery gospel.

By the way, if you have not seen it, let me advise you to look at the number for January of their periodical – the "American Missionary"; it contains a very good showing up of the pro-slavery character of the "American Board" – very familiar undoubtedly to old stagers like you, but all news to many orthodox people & reaching too where the Liberator cannot go.

Allow me to say, that I do not believe that Mr. Walcott "regards the Am. Home Missionary Society as the representation of the "cause" of "Home Missions".

Unless he said so, the inference is a non-sequitur.

Don't understand me as defending Mr Walcott. I don't know & I hardly care what he did say or mean; & it hardly becomes me, who am regarded as little better than one of the heathen, to take up the cudgels in behalf of an orthodox minister. Still, give the devil his due. There is encouragement when such men as Mr W. step even only so far out of the ranks; for if not so far as you would like, it is the first step that costs; & they must go back or go farther.

Yrs very truly F. W. Bird